

No. 5105	號五零百一千五第	日十初月二年戌甲治國	HONGKONG, FRIDAY, 27 TH MARCH, 1874.	五拜禮	號七十二月三英	港	[PRICE \$24 PER MONTH.
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Intimations,

Crawford & Co., } 1 small parcel.
 Hong Kong
 Hong Kong, 20th March, 1874.

Extracts.

IN KITTERY CHURCHYARD.

"Mary, wife of Charles Churnard, died April 23, 1874, in the 24th year of her age."

Crushing the sacred soil beneath her feet,
I kneel to read the shining stone. Alas!
How sleep a sorrow speaks! A sacred soul
And more have vanished with their mother and tears.
Since here was laid, upon an April day,
Sweet Mary Churnard in the grave away.
A hundred years since here her lover stood
Beside her grave in such despairing mood.
And yet from out the vanished past I hear
His cry of anguish sounding deep and clear,
And all my heart with woe and pain,
To-day's bright sun were looking on his pain.

"Of such a wife, O righteous Heaven! bestow,
What joy for me, what joy for earth is left."
Still from my memory's fond embrace
Still flows the sorrow's consolation from mine eyes.
Alas, poor tortured soul! I look away
From the dark stone—how brilliant shines the day!
A low wall, over which the roses shed
Their perfumed petals, shuts the quiet dead.
A path leads to the tiny square
Where in the broad and laughing face so fair,
And green green vision show through the stone wall,
And all about the wild birds sing and call.
And but a stone's throw southward, the blue sea
Bells sparkling in and singing incessantly.
Lovely as any dream the peaceful place,
And scarcely changed since on her gentle face
For the last time that on April day
He gazed, and felt, for him, all beauty lay
Beside his grave. Dull to him, I hear
I looked the bright world through eyes with tears so
Dear!

"I can still follow the same dreary way
That led me once to the coast of Spain."
His only hope! But when she died not dead
Firmly with him and kindly, and he felt
The storm and stress of strong and piercing pain
Yielding at last, and he grew calm again,
Doubtless he found another mate before
He followed Mary to the happy shore!
But none the less his grief appeals to me
Who sit and listen to the evening sea
This mellow summer day, beside the stone.
And in mine eyes I feel the foolish tears
For loved sorrow, dead a hundred years!

—OSCAR TRAUBER.

ESOP'S FABLES.

We have nothing to add to those trite and
little fables, but of such a nature, as
rapid in action. The anecdote of a self-con-
sideration of the fox who found the grapes sour
which were out of his reach (although in it-
self one of the highest examples of the fable,
and containing the germs of a more subtle
art)—the fable of the dog who snarled at
the shadow of his bone, and thus lost both
shadow and substance, and the fable of the
beast who has made "the lion's share" into
a proverb, are too perfect for anything but
simple repetition. We cannot improve upon
them, nor develop them; for those sides of
the mind against which their wonderful
satire is directed, are exactly as they were
when Esop wrote, and any addition to it
would only be to its disadvantage to it.
—Blackwood's Magazine.

BLUFFING A PEDLAR.

He was a persevering trader, and never
would be bluffed off with a short answer.
From one house in particular he received
continued refusals and rebuffs, and nothing
was wanted. Nevertheless, he made his
calls steadily with each regular round, till he
became a regular pest. One bitterly cold
day the bell rang, and the good lady had
hastened to get her hands from the dough in
which they were busy, to answer the call;
when she reached the door she stood the
pedlar, and said, "Have you any tin kettles?"
"Yes, ma'am; and away he goes to bring
the samples, chucking at the idea that his
zeal was so successful at last. The things
were brought, and in a few minutes he was
inquired for. The paws were brought, and
other articles enumerated, to seven different
kinds, till a goodly portion of the pedlar's
load had been transferred to the house."
"Is there anything else you want, ma'am?"
"Oh, no—I don't want any of these; I
only asked you if you had them. The
pedlar was saying "sold." He has never
called at that house since. —American Paper.

KNOWLEDGE—SACRED ANTHO-
LOGY.

A philosopher was thus exhorting his sons
—"My dear children, acquire knowledge, for
on worldly riches and possessions no reliance
can be placed: rank will be of no use out of
your own country, and on a journey, money
is in danger of being lost; for neither the
rich nor the poor can rely on the power of
money to carry it all over. The power of
knowledge is by degrees. But knowledge is
a perpetual spring of wealth, and if it is
of education, it is of power, and it is of
riches. There once happened an insurrection
in Damascus, where every one deserted his
habitation. The wise sons of a peasant be-
came the leaders of the mob, and the rapid
sons of the Vizier were reduced to seek shelter
in the village. If you want a paternal in-
heritance, acquire from your father knowl-
edge, for his wealth may be spent in ten
days." They asked Imam Mursheed Moham-
med Ben Moushah Ghazali (on whom be the
mercy of God!) by what means he had
attained such a degree of knowledge. He
replied, "In this manner—wherever I did
not know, I was not ashamed to inquire
about." There will be reasonable hopes of
recovery when you get a skillful physician to
feel your pulse. Inquire about everything
that you do not know; since, for the small
trouble of asking, you will be guided in the
reputable road of knowledge. —The Sacred
Anthology. By Moushah Daniel Comany.

THE SWISS ALPS.

It was conceived the Swiss Alps to resemble
a huge natural temple, in which are preserved
the remains of extinct races; and if we could
discover the entrance to this temple, in order
to trace out from thence the progress of the
inhabitants of this world, then the Alps appear
as the lowest and the most ancient stage
of the edifice, before which the Dent du Mor-
cles and the Dent du Midi tower as two gi-
gantic pyramids standing at the entrance of
the immense structure. At the foot of these
vast mountains lie rocky masses of the most
ancient granitic rocks of Switzerland, belong-
ing to the true coal-bearing, or carboniferous
period. These are little more than a mass of
crystalline limestone, the substance of the plants
having been destroyed, and replaced by a light
talcoous deposition which causes the fibrous
marble left in the stone to glisten with a sil-
very outline, as though they were finely
traced, or mechanically electro-plated on a
dark ground. Some specimens of this mar-
ble, brought from the Col d'Antenne, near
from Chaudun, by one of our observant
Alpine Clubmen, to be seen in the collection of
fossil plants in the British Museum. As
illustrations of the recent vegetable remains
in Switzerland of the carboniferous era
they are highly interesting, but the white
Alpine remains of fossil flora of this
period is insignificant when compared
with the abundant and varied similar
remains collected from our British coal
measures and stored up in our national
geological and mineralogical collections, and in
the museums of several of our provincial towns.
Switzerland is not a coal-producing, but a coal-
importing country, deriving much of its fuel
from the pits of Saarbrücken, and those of
St. Etienne, and partly from those of
Walsby and the Voegoe. —Edinburgh Re-
view.

THE PERSIAN CAPITAL.

Tehran is situated in a large plain, twelve
miles south of the Elburz Mountains, and is
the most important city of the Empire. It is
the capital of the Empire (the Shah's resi-
dence), which covers a considerable extent of
ground, and has a population of 150,000.
The city is situated on the Elburz, the plain
to the east and west of Tehran is populous,
and many pretty villages, nestled in the green
valleys of the Elburz, to the north. On ap-
proaching the city, from the Isfahan road,
a few domes and a great deal of verdure
are visible above the walls. Tehran is
about eleven miles in circumference,
surrounded by a curtain wall and bastioned
rampart and ditch of modern profile. Two-
thirds of the space included within the
walls is still unbuild on. The old streets
are narrow, and the bazaars are archaic,
naturally to those of Shiraz. The old build-
ing of consequence is the Ark, or "Citadel,"
containing one of the palaces of the Shah,
which consists of many apartments built
round courts or maidans, where chess trees
are planted round large ornamental water
tanks. The Ark was surrounded by a wall,
with turrets, and a dry ditch, and was entered
by a drawbridge. Three sides of the wall
formed part of the outer fortification, and
the remaining one was within the city. Im-
mediately upon passing the drawbridge and
the gate, there was a range of armourers'
workshops, enclosed within an arched
bazaar, through which the road passed
into the maidan, or square, entered by a
gate which immediately faces the principal
entrance of the palace, called the Dar-
el-Ahwal-Shah, or "Gate of the King's House."
It leads into the different courts, gardens,
barracks, and offices of the palace. A General
Sketch of the History of Persia. By Clements
R. Markham.

A FORMER KING OF ASHANTEE.

We have been taught to prepare for a
surprise, but it was unexpected. We were
told to go to the eastern side of the road to
a door of green reeds, which excluded the
crowd, and admitted us through a short
avenue to the King's garden, an area equal
to one of the large squares in London. The
breezes were strong and constant. In the
centre, four large umbrellas of new scarlet
cloth were fixed, under which the King's
dining table (holily guarded by the King's
bodyguards) was set, and on one side of the
table were various soups, and every sort of
vegetable; and on the other side, and other
fruits; sugar-candy, Port and Madeira wine,
spirits and Dutch cordials, with glasses.
Before we sat down the King met us, and
said, that as we had come out to see him, we
must receive the following present from his
hands: two ounces four grains of gold, one
sleep and one large hog for the officers, ten
acres to the linguists, and five acres to our
servants. We never saw a dinner more
handsomely served, and never ate a better.
On our expressing our relief, the King said
that he and his family were not at all
satisfied with the food, and he had ordered
several quail from the sea; he con-
vulsed freely and expressed much satisfaction
at our toasts. The King of Ashantee, the
King of England, the Governor, the King's
Captains, a perpetual union (with a speech,
which is the *size quo non*), and the handsome
women of England and Ashantee. After
dinner the King made many inquiries about
England, and retired, as we did, that our
servants might clear the table, which he in-
sisted on. When he returned, some of the
wise and Dutch cordials remaining, he gave
them to our servants to take with them, and
ordered the tablecloth to be thrown to them
and all the napkins. A cold pig, cold fowls
(with six that had not been dressed), were
despatched to Comassio for our supper.
—Mr. Bonville's Mission.

ORIGIN OF THE KILTS.

Scotchmen have wisely taken advantage of
the picturesque incidents of their history, of
adopting them to modern tastes and habits,
smoothing away and obliterating the rough-
ness of savage life, and presenting to living
generations a picture of a more refined and
civilized life. Thus the kilt is now adopted
as it had always been the clothing of the
Gael, and the heraldic colours of the tartans
are insisted upon as distinctive hallmarks
derived from ancient days. Yet there can
be but little doubt that the introduction of
clearly-marked differences in tartans, as be-
longing to different clans, is a very recent date,
and that the kilt in its present elaborate form
is not the garment worn by the ancestors of
the Scotchmen of the present day. The earliest
inhabitants of Scotland, as is usual with sav-
ages, disregarded clothing altogether, and
preferred fighting or hunting unrestrained
by any covering. Pellerin relates an
anecdote of one of the ancient kings, who,
having been educated in civilized lands, as-
sumed the command of his troops clad as
a king should be. Seeing one of his followers
lying down on the snowy ground unprotected
by covering of any sort, he asked him if he
were not cold. The man said, "Is your
face cold?" "No," replied the king.
Neither do I feel cold," returned the
man, "for I am all over covered." The king
covering worn were, of course, the skins of
animals; but later, when woollen cloths be-
gan to be made in Scotland, the people clothed
themselves in parti-coloured blankets.
These plaids among the Lowlanders were of
serviceable and sober hues, but the less civil-
ized Highlanders delighted in gorgeous and
brilliant patterns, and indulged in the use of
colours they were able to produce from herbs
or blood and lime. The chequered pattern
was universal, but there are no records to
prove that any particular pattern was adopted
as the attire of any clan or family. It is
the fashion now to insist that the object in
selecting these colours was to assume the
tint of the lion, the eagle, the stag, or the
unicorn, which were the emblems of the
clans. This is a very recent idea, and is
that of a Highlander should not be distinguish-
ed from the ground he stood upon. It is re-
lated that when a Southerner, who walked
over the verdant braes along the Spey, asked
the Duke of Gordon where his followers were,
that chief gave a whistle, and up sprang a
score of warriors, in their green and yellow
tartans, who had been taken by the stranger
for so many furze bushes. As the necessity
of keeping the blanket or tartan on the person
became more common, cords, straps, and
buckles were used to secure it, and after a
while the upper portions assumed the shape
of a coat; while the lower hung loosely down
to the knees, or girths or belts were worn round
the waist. But it was left to an army tailor,
who accompanied General Wade to Scotland
to strike out the happy thought of severing
the jacket from the philabeg, and of placing
the latter in innumerable folds, which gave it
both weight and beauty. Such was the
origin of the kilt as it is now worn. The folly
of representing all Scotchmen as dressed in
this garb has been pointed out by Lord
Macaulay, who laughs at the idea of Bruce
or Douglas in striped petticoats. "At
length," he writes, "this fashion reached a
point beyond which it is not easy to proceed."
The last British king who held a court in
Hollywood thought he could give a more
striking proof of his respect for the usage
which had been introduced before the Union
than by disguising himself in the dress of the
Union, was considered by nine
Scotchmen out of ten as the dress of a dandy.
—Pall Mall Gazette.

Insurance.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to grant Policies
against Fire to the extent of £60,000 on any
one FIRST-CLASS RISK.

At Current Rates.
A RETURN OF TWENTY PER CENT. (20%)
will be made on the premium charged on all
insurances, such RETURN being payable on the
issue of the Policy.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.

Imperial Fire Insurance Company,
383 Hongkong, 1st March, 1874.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to grant Insurances as follows:—

MARINE RISKS.

Policies at current rates, payable either here,
in London, or at the principal ports of India,
Australia, &c. A Brokerage of THREE PER CENT. AND ONE-
THIRD PER CENT. will be allowed on all LOCAL
RISKS.

FIRE RISKS.

Policies granted on First-class Buildings to all
parts of the World, at current rates, subject to a discount
of 20 per cent. A DISCOUNT OF TWENTY PER CENT. (20%)
upon the current local rates will be allowed on
all premium charged for insurance; such dis-
count being deducted at the time of the issue
of policy.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.

By 1 Hongkong, 1st January, 1874.

CHINA AND JAPAN MARINE INSU-
RANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE.

AFTER this date, a Brokerage of Thirty-three
and one-third per cent. (33 1/3%) will be
allowed by this Company on risks to be insured
in CHINA, JAPAN, the PHILIPPINES, and
the STRAITS.

On risks to all other ports, the Brokerage will
be ten per cent. (10%) only.

WM. PUSTAU & Co.,
Agents.

131 Hongkong, 21st January, 1874.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND
SPECIAL ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

Established 1809.

CAPITAL—£2,000,000.

THE Undersigned, Agents at Hongkong for
the above Company, are prepared to grant
Policies against FIRE, to the extent of £100,000
on any Building, or on Merchandise in the same,
at the following rates, or on Submarine in the same,
at the following rates, subject to a discount of 20%.

Detached and semi-detached Dwelling Houses,
removed from Town, and their Contents, 1 per cent. per annum.
Other Dwelling Houses,
used strictly as such, and their Contents, 1 per cent. per annum.
Godowns, Offices,
Shops, &c., and their Contents, 1 per cent. per annum.

SHORT PERIOD INSURANCES.

Not exceeding ten days, 1/2 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding one month, 2/3 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding three months, 3/4 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding six months, 4/5 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding nine months, 5/6 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding twelve months, 7/8 of the annual rate.

At 1003 Hongkong, 21st November, 1873.

NOTICE.

THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY,
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THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

Insurance.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COM-
PANY OF MANCHESTER AND
LONDON.

THE Undersigned have been appointed
Agents for the above Company at Hong-
kong, Canton, Foochow, Shanghai, and
Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at
Current Rates.

HOLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
1588 Hongkong, 15th October, 1863.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY,
(LIMITED).

NOTICE.

POLICIES granted at current rates on Ma-
rine Risks to all parts of the World. In
accordance with the Company's Articles of As-
sociation, Two-thirds of the Profits are dis-
tributed annually to Contributors, whether Share-
holders or not, in proportion to the net amount
of Premium contributed by each, the remaining
third being carried to Reserve Fund.

OLYMPHANT & Co.,
General Agents.

951 Hongkong, 17th April, 1873.